



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/735,488	12/14/2000	Masatoshi Takaira	018656-196	8369
21839	7590	05/04/2005	EXAMINER	
BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS L L P POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			LETT, THOMAS J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/735,488

Applicant(s)

TAKAIRA ET AL

Examiner

Thomas J. Lett

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 7-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al (USPN 5,726,768).

With respect to claim 1, Ishikawa et al disclose a digital copying machine (facsimile apparatus 1-0, Fig. 1) comprising:

an image reader (scanner 2-7, see Fig. 2) that reads an image of the original document and generates image data (col. 3, lines 30-31),

a printing unit (printing unit 1-4, Fig. 1) that prints based on image data (col. 3, lines 11-13),

a bus (path from facsimile control unit 1-1 to Host 1-5) that transmits the image data generated by the image reader (scanner 2-7, see Fig. 2) to an external computer (Host 1-5) and that transmits image data from the external computer to the printing unit (path from Host 1-5 to printing unit 1-4, Fig. 1),

a signal generator that generates a signal based on an operation timing of the printing unit (the CPU 4-1 sends the image data as serial data to the printing unit 4-1 in accordance with a line synchronizing signal from the printing unit 1-4 until the data sending is finished, col. 6, lines 50-54), and

switching means (data converting unit 1-3, Fig. 1) that, in response to the signal, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit (the data converting unit 1-3 might cause the printing unit 1-4 to print the read image data in parallel, or might send the read image data to the host 1-5, col. 26, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 2, Ishikawa et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said signal generated by the signal generator is a clock signal issued based on an operation timing for each pixel (a clock signal for inputting and outputting serial image data, col. 28, lines 3-4).

With respect to claim 3, Ishikawa et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said signal generated by the signal generator is a horizontal synchronization signal issued based on an operation timing for each line (image data as serial data is sent to the printing unit 4-1 in accordance with a line synchronizing signal from the printing unit 1-4 until the data sending is finished, col. 6, lines 50-54).

With respect to claim 4, Ishikawa et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a read buffer that temporarily stores the image data read by the image reader (image data stored in the line buffer 2-9 is read out by the data converting unit 1-3, col. 10, lines 28-30).

With respect to claim 5, Ishikawa et al disclose a digital copying machine as claimed in claim 1, said bus includes a print buffer that temporarily stores the image data sent by the external computer (in a case where a printing control in page order is instructed by the host 1-5, the apparatus stores the bit map image into the memory 4-7 and performs the printing, col. 25, lines 22-28).

Claim 7, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 1.

Claim 8, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 2.

Claim 9, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 3.

Claim 10, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 4.

Claim 11, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 5.

Claim 12, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 1.

Claim 13, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 2.

Claim 14, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 3.

Claim 15, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 4.

Claim 16, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 5.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 6 is allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, including Miura et al, Tsuzuki et al, and Kashiara, fails to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a signal generator that generates horizontal synchronization

Art Unit: 2626

signals issued based on an operation timing for each line in the printing unit, and switching means that, in response to a rise and a fall of the horizontal synchronization signals, switches the bus between transmission from the image reader to the external computer and transmission from the external computer to the printing unit, whereas scan image data for one line taken out of the read buffer and print image data for one line taken out of the print buffer are alternately transferred via the bus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is 571-272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-4:30pm.

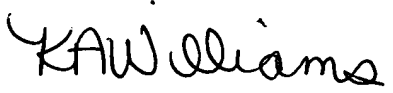
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on 571-272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJL




KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER